

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY HERITAGE AND EDUCATION CENTER  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHINA VS VIETNAM, 1979, CONTINUING IMPLICATIONS – LECTURE AT THE USAHEC

Did you know there was a second War in Vietnam, after cessation of hostilities with America in 1975? Despite a long history of alliance against France and the United States, China launched a so-called “punitive war” against Vietnam on February 17, 1979. As a result, the two countries remained hostile, fighting along their borders for over a decade. The history of the conflict is seldom studied due to the lack of access to official records in both countries. At 7:15 PM on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, Dr. Xiaoming Zhang of the Department of Strategy at the Air War College will give a lecture entitled, “What Can We Learn from the China-Vietnam War?” at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Drawing upon newly available Chinese sources, the lecture will be based on Dr. Zhang’s new book, *Deng Xiaoping’s Long War: The Military Conflict between China and Vietnam, 1979-1991*. The text attempts to address the question of why these two countries went to war against each other after many years of “brother plus comrade” relations. It retraces the thirteen years of hostility between China and Vietnam, arguing that the intimate, two-decade relationship was far more fragile than it appeared. Dr. Zhang’s talk will cover how China made the decision to go to war against Vietnam, and how their decision affects security in the region today.

Dr. Xiaoming Zhang is professor in the Department of Strategy at the Air War College, teaching strategy and subjects on China and East Asia. He earned his Doctorate of Philosophy in history from the University of Iowa in 1994, and taught at Texas Tech University and Texas A&M International University, prior to joining the Air War College. Dr. Zhang is the author of over twenty articles and chapters on Chinese military involvement in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and Sino-Soviet relations during these conflicts. His writings have appeared in *China Quarterly*, *Journal of Cold War Studies*, *The Journal of Conflict Studies*, *Security Studies*, and *The Journal of Military History*. The Society for Military History has twice selected him to receive the Moncado Prize for excellence in the writing of military history. His current research focuses on America’s and China’s South China Sea policy from a historical perspective.

All USAHEC lectures are open to the public and FREE to attend. Doors to the Visitor and Education Center open at 6:30 p.m., and the lecture begins at 7:15 p.m. Parking is free, books for a signing after the lecture will be for sale, and the Museum Store will be open. For directions, more information, and a complete schedule of USAHEC events, please visit: [www.usahec.org](http://www.usahec.org) or call: 717-245-3972.